United Nations A/AC.198/2018/L.1

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
8 May 2018

Original: English

Committee on Information
Fortieth session
1–11 May 2018
Agenda item 10
Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session

Draft report

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 34/182, the General Assembly decided to maintain the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities, established by its resolution 33/115 C, which would be known as the Committee on Information, and to increase its membership from 41 to 66. In section I, paragraph 2, of resolution 34/182, the Assembly requested the Committee:

(a) To continue to examine United Nations public information policies and activities, in the light of the evolution of international relations, particularly during the past two decades, and of the imperatives of the establishment of the new international economic order and of a new world information and communication order;

(b) To evaluate and follow up the efforts made and the progress achieved by the United Nations system in the field of information and communications;

(c) To promote the establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order intended to strengthen peace and international understanding and based on the free circulation and wider and better-balanced dissemination of information and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly.

The Assembly also requested the Committee and the Secretary-General to report to it at its thirty-fifth session.

2. The General Assembly, from its thirty-sixth to seventy-second sessions, took note of the reports of the Committee and adopted resolutions by consensus. At its seventy-second session, the Assembly took note of the report of the Committee and adopted by consensus resolutions 72/90 A and B.

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3. Currently, the Committee is composed of the following Member States:

Algeria	Denmark
Angola	Dominican Republic
Antigua and Barbuda	Ecuador
Argentina	Egypt
Armenia	El Salvador
Austria	Ethiopia
Azerbaijan	Finland
Bangladesh	France
Belarus	Gabon
Belgium	Georgia
Belize	Germany
Benin	Ghana
Brazil	Greece
Bulgaria	Guatemala
Burkina Faso	Guinea
Burundi	Guyana
Cabo Verde	Hungary
Chile	Iceland
China	India
Colombia	Indonesia
Congo	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Costa Rica	Iraq
Côte d'Ivoire	Ireland
Croatia	Israel
Cuba	Italy
Cyprus	Jamaica
Czechia	Japan
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Jordan
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kazakhstan

Kenya
Lebanon
Liberia
Libya
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malta
Mexico
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Nepal
Netherlands
Niger
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

II. Organizational questions

A. Opening of the session

4. The organizational meeting of the fortieth session of the Committee was held on 1 May 2018 at Headquarters. The session was opened by the Chair of the Committee, Jan Kickert (Austria).

B. Elections

5. The Committee deferred the election of a fourth Vice-Chair pending consultations within, and nomination by, African States. The officers for the Committee for the period 2017–2019 remained as follows:

Chair:
Jan Kickert (Austria)

Vice-Chairs:
Jakub Chmielewski (Poland)
Hajime Kishimori (Japan)
Carla Rivera Sánchez (El Salvador)

Rapporteur:
Hajime Kishimori (Japan)

C. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

6. At its organizational meeting, on 1 May 2018, the Committee adopted the following agenda and programme of work (A/AC.198/2018/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
4. Admission of new members.
5. Statement by the Chair.
6. Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications.
7. General debate.
8. Consideration of reports submitted by the Secretary-General.
9. Open-ended working group of the Committee on Information.
10. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

7. The Committee held its general debate on 1 and 2 May 2018. On 2 May, in the afternoon, the Department of Public Information, led by the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, held an informal interactive dialogue with Member States.

8. For its consideration of agenda item 8, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information: strategic communications services (A/AC.198/2018/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information: news services (A/AC.198/2018/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information: outreach and knowledge services (A/AC.198/2018/4).

D. Observers

9. The European Union, the State of Palestine and the International Organization of la Francophonie participated in the session as observers.